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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US92/09785 (22) International Filing Date: 20 November 1992 (20.11.92) (30) Priority data: 797,298 25 November 1991 (25.11.91) US (71) Applicant: ACTV, INC. [US/US]; 1270 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 2401, Rockefeller Center, New York, NY 10020 (US). (72) Inventor: FREEMAN, Michael, J. ; ACTV, Inc., 1270 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 2401, Rockefeller Center, New York, NY 10020 (US). (74) Agents: DALEY, Christopher, J.; Dorsey & Whitney, 1330 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036 (US) et al.		(81) Designated States: AU, BG, BR, CA, CS, FI, HU, JP, KP, KR, LK, PL, RO, RU, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>With amended claims and statement.</i>

(54) Title: COMPRESSED DIGITAL DATA INTERACTIVE TELEVISION SYSTEM**(57) Abstract**

An interactive cable television system is disclosed which utilizes a standard television cable distribution network (6) for simultaneously providing a plurality of viewers with an interactive television program comprising a plurality of signals related in time and content. The video signals are transmitted in a digital format (2), more than one signal being multiplexed (4) into a data stream for transmission of multiple signals over a single channel. The digital video signals may be compressed (3) for transmitting more video signals per channel.

A receiver (7), in conjunction with a signal selector (8), selects a particular NTSC channel for playback, then selects a particular video signal from the multiplexed signal, and uncompresses the video signal for playback to a television monitor (10). An alternative embodiment is disclosed wherein the various signals which comprise the interactive program are switched between at the head end rather than at the receiver. The multiple choice control unit (9) selects a desired signal by relaying the multiple choice selections of the user through a relay box back to a remotely located switching station (4). The switching station routes the correct video signal down the appropriate cable channel for the particular user.

